

SHIPYARD STRIKE MOVES WILSON TO ACT

Cloudy and Unsettled; Probably Snow Sunday.

"If It Happens In New York
It's In The Evening World"

The Evening World.

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EDITION

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PRICE TWO CENTS.

GERMANY IS STARVED TO FEED ARMY Gas and Air Attacks on the Americans Fail

GERMAN GAS SHELL ATTACKS AND RAIDS BY BIG AIR FLEET AGAINST PERSHING'S TROOPS

Bombardment Keeps Up for
Two Hours, but No Amer-
ican Is Injured.

PROTECTED BY MASKS.

Many Airplanes Attempt to
Fly Over the Line, but
Are Driven Back.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY
IN FRANCE, Feb. 16.—The Germans
opposed to the Americans yester-
day made an unsuccessful bombard-
ment with gas shells. German air-
planes in large numbers also were
driven off by the American machines
and anti-aircraft batteries.

Gas shells in considerable number
from the German guns fell within the
American sector early yesterday,
making necessary the wearing of
masks in all parts of the trenches
for more than three hours. One
American was injured by an explod-
ing shell, but so excellent has been
the anti-gas training of the men that
not a single case of gas poisoning was
reported. The duration of the shell-
ing was two hours, but traces of the
poisonous fumes remained for another
hour after the bombardment had
ceased.

Visibility was good yesterday in the
clear, cold atmosphere, and as a re-
sult there was much aerial activity
on both sides. German airplanes in
large numbers repeatedly attempted
to cross the American lines, but were
driven off either by anti-aircraft bat-
teries or by the air squadrons.

The American artillerymen are
rapidly attaining a high degree of
efficiency. Yesterday they continually
fired shells that exploded so close to
the enemy airplanes that the aviators
were compelled to hurry back to a
safer area, pursued across the sky by
a trail of shrapnel puffs.

The artillery on both sides resumed
activity to-day. The American gun-
ners shelled the German rear lines
and communications effectively.

American Troops Face Most Se-
rious Battle Yet.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY
IN FRANCE, Feb. 16 (United Press).

—The American sector is opposite
Mont Sec, a great hill leaning on the
horizon, visible from the city of Toul.
It is permissible to announce to-day
that the battle is on. The hill is dotted
with many machine-gun nests and observation
posts. The Americans are already
calling it "Gibraltar," but a Pitts-
burgh lad quoted Bob Fitzsimmons' fa-
mous saying, "The bigger they come,
the harder they fall."

The hill is a short distance within
the enemy's lines and affords obser-
vation of our territory like a per-
petual searchlight. The American
artillery periodically touches up the
machine-gun nests on it.

Mont Sec is about three miles
northwest of Nancy, the town
where American soldiers were re-
cently captured in a German raid.
It is about ten miles from the east
of St. Mihiel and twenty miles north
of Toul.

"We are working hard but we are
not hesitating," declared a noted Ma-
jor General in discussing the situa-
tion with the United Press to-day.
"We are not without appreciation of
what has been done by others and
what remains for us to do. What the
American armies have done in the
past seems nothing to the west. This
army does that counts now."

MYSTERIOUS FIRE AT HOBOKEN PIER SWEEPS BIG LINER

Entire City Department Fights
\$500,000 Blaze in U. S.
Barred Zone.

Fire aboard the Swedish-American
liner *Thor* broke out at the foot
of Seventeenth Street, Hoboken,
brought out all the city's fire fighting
apparatus to-day and caused the offi-
cers in charge of the Government
barred zone extending on three sides
of the burning ship to take extraordi-
nary precautions to prevent a spread
of the flames to the line of transports
adjacent.

The quickness with which the
flames spread, the dangerous posi-
tion of the ship in reference to the
Tieflin & Lang drydocks and other
property taken over by the Government
for its Port of Embarkation and the
fact that the alarm box on the pier
failed to register a signal at
Hoboken Fire Headquarters, led the
commanding officer of the barred zone
to institute a rigid investigation
before the flames were subdued. Dam-
age estimated at half a million dol-
lars resulted to the ship and cargo of
cotton and Red Cross stores.

When flames and smoke were seen
issuing from the uncovered hatch
of Hold No. 2, officers of the Mink
immediately ran to the alarm box on
the pier and pulled the signal cord.
When engines failed to appear a sec-
ond alarm was sent in from the box.
After another wait a telephone to
Fire Chief Michael Dunn revealed that
no alarm had been sounded. Subsequent
investigation of the pier box
indicated the wires were not in contact.

As soon as the Fire Chief arrived
on the scene he saw the seriousness
of the blaze and turned in two extra
alarms. It was impossible for the
men to approach the hatchway over
the blazing hold, so intense was the
heat and dense the fumes of burn-
ing cotton. After a conference with
the ship's officers Chief Dunn ordered
some of the Mink's sea cooks to be
opened so that the burning hold
might be flooded.

With the influx of water the Mink
slowly settled and the fire was
quenched sufficiently to permit deck
streams to be poured into the hold.
Meanwhile all the waterfront was
smothered in dense smoke clouds.

Immediately south of the Mink are
the Lamport & Holt piers, which
have been taken over by the Govern-
ment. The Tietjen & Lang drydocks,
also in the immediate neighborhood,
and the Government ammunition fac-
tory at 16th and Washington Streets
were all in the danger zone. Blue-
jackets were thrown in a guarding
line about the drydocks and two com-
panies of soldiers barred the ap-
proaches to the ammunition factory.

Krupp Dividend Cut From 12 to 10
Per Cent.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 20 (by mail).—
The Krupp Company has reduced its
annual dividend and is paying only
10 per cent. Last year it paid 12 per
cent. The annual report of the com-
pany says that the increasing de-
mands of the army have necessitated
the spending of a large share of the
profit on new plants.

\$84,000 IN THEFTS CAUSED SUICIDE OF LAWYER DAVIDSON

Carried Poison Five Years to
End Life If Caught, He
Wrote in Confession.

(Special to The Evening World.)
WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Feb. 16.—
Mystery surrounding the suicide on
Jan. 8 last of Edward W. Davidson,
former Corporation Counsel of New
York and a prominent member of the
Westchester County Bar Association,
was cleared away to-day when it
was learned Davidson had misap-
propriated between \$70,000 and \$84,000
intrusted to him by clients by forg-
ing mortgages and notes.

Davidson shot himself in his home
at New Rochelle. Following his fun-
eral, reports reached District Attor-
ney Davis that Davidson had been
robbed of his clients' money. Davis
said, tried to prevent an investiga-
tion. Davis however sent William
Hoffman, investigator for the West-
chester County District Attorney's
office, to New Rochelle to find out
if any other person was implicated
in Davidson's alleged peculations. Davis
is now satisfied Davidson
alone was involved.

Hoffman filed a report with the
County Prosecutor which shows that
Davidson left a confession in which
he admitted stealing large sums of
money by forging mortgages. He also
left a number of letters to friends
and clients in which he admitted
wrongdoing. To Howard Ives of
New Rochelle Davidson wrote that
he intended to do away with himself,
that he had misappropriated consid-
erable money and that he had been
doing so for ten years.

He also wrote that for the last five
years he had "carried in his pocket
a deadly poison, to be taken on an
instant's notice, in case he were ap-
prehended."

In a confession addressed to Ford
Himman, manager of his law office,
Davidson gave a list of mortgages
he had forged. He spoke particularly
of the Watson estate, of which he
had charge, and specified the follow-
ing as "fake mortgages":

Kidd, \$2,000; Churchill, \$5,000;
Solway, \$11,000; Blair, \$7,000; Mc-
Gran, \$10,000; Eliza, Perrin, \$10,000; Joseph
Wittenberg, \$5,000. Then he added:

"The Watson mortgage was bona
fide originally, but it was paid off
by a check of Samuel Halstead.
Samuel Halstead had Title Company
represent him at the closing. I signed
Mrs. Watson's name to the satisfac-
tion piece and check was made out
to my order."

Davidson left a will in which he
left all of his property to his wife,
Mary Allen Davidson. The will has
been probated and it is expected that
the creditors will make a fight to get
possession of the estate, estimated
to be worth about one-third of the
amount he misappropriated.

At the time Davidson killed him-
self it was given out in New Rochelle
that he was insane and himself insane
because of the raids made on New
York City by United States
Marines. Davidson, however, was a
member of the Police Department
tried to "tip off" the saloon keepers
in advance of the raids.

Davidson was then Corporation
Counsel.

WOMEN ON RAILROAD STRIKE

Lehigh Valley Section Hands De-
mand More Pay.

POITTSVILLE, Pa., Feb. 16.—Women
section hands employed by the Lehigh
Valley Railroad on the Shenandoah
East Creek branch are on strike. They
receive \$1.50 for a nine-hour day and
they are asking for \$2. They will be
organized by a union organ.

VON HINDENBURG SQUEEZING GERMANY AND AUSTRIA DRY TO KEEP THE ARMY GOING

Crops Fail, Dogs Are Almost
Extinct and Crows Have
Become a Delicacy.

By William Philip Stimmis.

(Copyright, 1918, by the United Press.)
BERNE, Switzerland, Feb. 16.—Hin-
denburg is squeezing Germany like
an octopus a sponge. Even if there
is a little complaint in the army over
food, Germany and Austria are starv-
ing.

I just heard a most remarkable
story illustrating the case in point,
which was reported at both the Brit-
ish and American War Offices.

A German officer, through an inter-
mediary, approached a man with
whom he was personally acquainted.
A meeting was arranged aboard a
boat on Lake Constance.

The German offered to sell Prussian
military secrets for \$20,000, the Allies
to judge their value before paying.
The acquaintance closely questioned
the officer, who was of high rank,
concerning his motives.

AGED PARENTS UNABLE TO GET
SUSTAINING FOOD.

The officer broke down and wept
like a child, declaring his mother and
father were old, poor, broken in
health, and unable to get sustaining
food. He wanted the money in order
to send his parents to a neutral coun-
try. After which he would return to
the front and try to get killed. If he
failed, he would commit suicide.

As America and England had not
acted at the expiration of the officer's
short leave, the matter was dropped.
The incident shows the trend of
events.

The situation was bad six months
ago; it is infinitely worse to-day.

The first cabbage crop was a fail-
ure. Next to the potato, the cabbage
is the German masses' standby. Like
an Egyptian plague, caterpillars de-
stroyed the crop, stalk and all. It is
said that a wind blew blizzards
from France, producing the devastat-
ing army of caterpillars.

The plum crop, likewise, was a fail-
ure, owing to the weather. The Ger-
mans boast a plum tree for each man,
woman and child. Marmalade is one
of the mainstays of the masses. Now
there is practically none.

The last grain crop was below aver-
age, despite reports to the contrary.
It was due to lack of nitrate for fer-
tilizer. Practically all nitrate now
principally manufactured out of the
air, are used in explosives.

VEGETABLE POWDERS ARE
MIXED WITH THE FLOUR.

Bread is, therefore, shorter than
ever. It is not only mixed with potato
flour, but with a powder made from
turnips, carrots, chestnuts, etc., in
which the poisonous by-products have
been chemically extracted.

The German people have a say-
ing, "The very stars fight against us."
Dogs are eaten to such an extent
the breed has practically disappeared
in certain districts. Crows are be-
coming a delicacy. Fats are almost
totally lacking. The weekly ration
some time ago was 62 1/2 grams,
including lard, butter, etc. The Amer-
ican child spreads on its after-
school tart more butter than the Eu-
ropean's ration in Germany.

I have heard again the story that
corpses are reduced for fat. Two
nurses claim to have seen the re-
cesses. Whether it is true or untrue,
the story refuses to down.

The beer famine is growing. There
is equally as great a shortage of the
bread famine. The Rahrat reduced
malt allowances for the new harvest
year to 13 per cent, for Bavaria and
(Continued on Second Page.)

TWO MILLIONAIRES IN DIVORCE ACTION; FRAME-UP CHARGED

Philip F. Kastel Names Paul E.
Heller in Suit Against
Wife.

Philip F. Kastel, millionaire stock
broker of 20 Broad Street, to-day
filed papers through his attorneys,
Randolph M. Newman, to a suit for
divorce from Maud Edna Kastel, No.
200 West 58th Street, naming Paul E.
Heller, President of Heller Brothers,
millionaire steel manufacturers of
Newark, N. J.

Kastel alleges that on the night of
Jan. 12 after midnight he went to
his home on 58th Street in company
with G. Rose and there found Heller
and Mrs. Kastel, the latter attired in
a Japanese dressing gown. Mrs.
Kastel ran to the phone and called up
J. W. Fitzmaurice, who lives at the
Hotel Gotham, to come to her as-
sistance.

Interesting proceedings followed, it
is said, as a result of which Heller
spent a week in the hospital and
Fitzmaurice went to Palm Beach to
reconvalesce.

Heller has been a friend of the
Kastels. He was one of a party at
his home on New Year's Eve. Kas-
tel says the affection of Heller for
his wife became evident to him then.
Following the party he kept a close
watch on his wife.

Heller, in answer to the complaint,
admits most of the charges, but ad-
mits that he is the victim of a con-
spiracy between Mr. and Mrs. Kastel,
Rose and Fitzmaurice.

The events being in the company of
Mrs. Kastel at dinner parties at the
Hotel Gotham and other hotels, and at
box parties and dances between Jan.
1 and the fatal night of Jan. 12, he
says all this was the result of
premeditated plan between the four
conspirators.

Heller alleges that on the night in
question Fitzmaurice told him the
he could be settled and publicly
for all concerned avoided if he
(Heller) would pay a large sum of
money. This, Heller says, he refused
to do. Heller says in his answer
that he has been served in a suit
for libel against Heller for \$25,
000 damages for libel.

John G. Purdie of No. 200 West 58th
Street, said to be a member of the
United States Secret Service, is de-
scribed by Mrs. Kastel of attempting
to force her to sign an affidavit in-
sulting her husband in a conspiracy
to defraud Heller. Purdie is said to
have first become acquainted with
the Kastels when he went to their
home to see Mr. Kastel in regard to
information Kastel had given the
Government involving certain Ger-
man-Americans in attacks on the
President.

SUBMARINE FIRES THIRTY ROUNDS IN BOMBARDING DOVER

Kills One Child and Injures
Three Others—Three Men
and a Woman Are Hit.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—An enemy sub-
marine bombarded Dover early this
morning.

"Fire was opened about 12.10
o'clock," says the official report. "The
firing continued three or four minutes.
The shore batteries replied and the
enemy ceased fire after discharging
about thirty rounds.

"The casualties were: Killed, one
child; injured, three men, one woman
and three children. Slight damage
was caused house property."

The attack followed by twenty-four
hours a dash by German destroyers
into the Strait of Dover and the sink-
ing of eight patrol vessels. The patrol
vessels, being equipped only with
light armament for anti-submarine
work, did not have a chance once the
Germans got among them.

It is believed the German destroyer
flotilla had intended an attack on
supply ships between England and
France.

The surprise attack was made by
the Germans at 12.30 o'clock in the
morning, the violent gunfire awak-
ening the residents of Dover. For forty-
five minutes the action continued,
the flashes of the guns being plainly
visible from the high ground about
the city.

With daylight it became known
that the German destroyers had made
a sudden dash into the channel, at-
tacking a line of "drifters" engaged
in hunting a submarine which had
been sighted by the patrol.

Berlin's Version of the Raid by
Destroyer Fleet.

BERLIN, Feb. 16 (via London).—
The Admiralty to-day made the fol-
lowing announcement:

"On the night of Feb. 14 our tor-
pedo boats under command of Cap-
tain Heinecke made a surprise attack on
strong forces guarding the English
Channel between Calais and Dover
on the north, and Cape Gris-Nez and
Folkestone on the south. A large
guardship, numerous armed fishing
trawlers and several motor vessels
were forced to give battle, the largest
part of them being destroyed. Our
torpedo boats suffered no losses or
damage. All returned."

PEACE IS STILL NEARER, NUNCIO'S REPORT TO POPE FROM VIENNA AND BERLIN

Wilson's Latest Speech Said to
Have Impressed Those of Dem-
ocratic Tendencies.

ROME, Feb. 16.—That "peace
is nearer than ever" was
the unofficial belief spoken
in Vatican circles to-day.

The Vatican has learned from
Papal Nuncios, it was said, that
President Wilson's latest speech
favorably impressed those of
democratic tendencies in Austria
and Germany, particularly the
former.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 16.—
"Everything is attainable, once
the peoples of the world begin
talking with one another without
claiming infallibility," declared
Prince Max of Baden in an inter-
view in Berlin.

"I will not anticipate Chancellor
von Hertling's reply to Presi-
dent Wilson," said the Prince,
"except to point out that Wilson
has not spoken as a world judge.
His words are full of signifi-
cance."

PLEA OF SHIP STRIKERS' UNION LEADS WILSON TO INTERVENE; SOME MEN TO GET MORE PAY

President Prepares a Proposal for
Workers as Federal Board Grants
Increases in Delaware Yards—
Strike Spreads Rapidly in East.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—As the walkout of woodworkers in
Eastern shipyards grew rapidly to-day, President Wilson prepared a
definite proposal to end the strike.

GEN. ROBERTSON QUILTS AS CHIEF OF STAFF

Gen. Wilson Takes His Place as
Head of British Army in
London.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Gen. Sir William
Robertson, Chief of the British Imperial
Staff, has resigned; it was officially an-
nounced this evening.

Gen. Wilson, sub-Chief of Staff, takes
the vacant place.

FRENCH TO TAKE OVER ENTIRE MERCHANT FLEET

Transfer of Control to the Govern-
ment Is Scheduled for
March 10.

PARIS, Feb. 16.—A decree published
in the Journal Officiel this morning pro-
vides for the requisitioning of the en-
tire merchant marine of France on
March 10.

Government commissions will confer
with the ship owners as to the condi-
tions under which the government will
take over the vessels.

GERMANY WITHDRAWS COMMISSIONERS IN RUSSIA

Berlin Announces That They Have
Crossed Line—Troops Held
on Russian Front.

BERLIN, Feb. 16 (via London).—The
Commissioners representing the Central
Powers left Petrograd yesterday and
crossed the German lines this morning;
it is announced officially.

ROME, Feb. 16.—Germany has com-
menced the transfer of troops from
the east to the west front, because of
failure of the Breslau-Lodz peace ne-
gotiations, according to a dispatch
from Russia published to-day in the
Ries Nationalist.

ROOSEVELT SITS UP IN BED; READS DETECTIVE STORIES

Only Bulletin To-Day Says the
Colonel "Passed the Best Night
Since His Operation."

Col. Theodore Roosevelt sat right
straight up in his bed to-day and
read a book of detective stories.

If any further evidence of his im-
proved condition be needed it is fur-
nished by the one official bulletin
issued at Roosevelt Hospital, which
said the Colonel had passed "the best
night since his operation."

Among the callers to-day were Mrs.
Cornelius Vanderbilt, Senator Theo-
dore Douglas Robinson and Major
John Purroy Mitchell. The Major said
he was going to start for California
this afternoon.

NOSE THROATS HEALED
Quickly by Father John's Medicine.—Advt.

A direct appeal to the President to
intervene was made to-day by offi-
cers of the Brotherhood of Carpenters
and Joiners, approximately 50 per
cent. of whose members in the New
York district are out to-day demand-
ing immediate assurances of higher
wages and closed shop conditions.

The President is expected to drive
at the heart of the troubles and ap-
peal to the loyalty of the men in get-
ting them back to work while the
Government gets its programme for
shipworkers on a working basis. Ap-
peals by Chairman Hurley of the Ship-
ping Board and others have proved
fruitless and all agree that a solution
can be brought by the President
alone.

There will be no conscription of
labor now, it is learned definitely.

WAGE ADVANCE GRANTED IN DELAWARE YARDS.

The Shipping Board's Wage Ad-
justment Board to-day agreed on an in-
crease in wages, definite working
conditions and overtime pay for all ship-
yard workers in the so-called Dela-
ware Yards, comprising about 80 per
cent. of ship workers on the Atlantic
coast. It does not include the striking
carpenters, but is expected to affect
their strike.

Many of the striking carpenters,
however, despite the advice of their
union officials, have signified their
intention of accepting the award.

The strikers in the New York dis-
trict have not done so, but it is hoped
they will.

The new wage scale is not so high
as the Pacific coast rate, nor as high
as the New York strikers demand,
but it will be the model for settle-
ments in other districts on the south
Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Chairman Hurley, General Manager
First of the Emergency Fleet Corpora-
tion, and V. Robert Macy, Chairman
of the Labor Adjustment Board, con-
ferred with Assistant Secretary
Roosevelt of the Navy to-day on the
shipyard situation.

Threats of shipyard woodworkers
that they would be joined in forty-
eight hours by from 60,000 to 100,000
ironworkers were met with unconcern
by Shipping Board heads. All ship-
building trades with the single ex-
ception of the woodworkers, and in-
cluding the ironworkers, it was
pointed out, are under ironclad agree-
ment with the Government to submit
all controversies to arbitration. Hith-
erto ironworkers assured the Gov-
ernment to-day they would hold fast
to the agreement.

WOODWORKERS REFUSE TO AR- BITRATE CONDITIONS.

The woodworkers' strike, it was
stated to-day, "came out of a clear
sky," following refusal of the Ship-
ping Board to concede an uncondi-
tional closed shop. The Shipping
Board, according to William Black-
man, chief of the labor adjustment
division, agreed to mediate hours and
wages, but insisted also on media-
tion of "conditions"—principal of
which was the closed shop demand.